

ARCHIBACCHARIS INTERMEDIA (BLAKE) TURNER, COMB. NOV.

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Preparation of a treatment of the Asteraceae of Veracruz has convinced me that Archibaccharis hirtella var. intermedia Blake is a valid species related to, but amply distinct from, A. hirtella (DC.) Heer. Jackson (1975) in his revisional study of Archibaccharis knew A. intermedia from only two collections, the type itself and from a Botteri collection, both from Mount Orizaba. The present study is based upon a large group of collections at ENCB, TEX and XAL, ranging from northern Hidalgo state to central Veracruz. Most of these were assembled from Veracruz by the exceptional collector F. Ventura A. working out of ENCB, who must have made Archibaccharis his favorite genus for collection, so numerous and well documented are his specimens (cited, in part, below). For this we owe him many thanks.

I include here an emended description over that rendered by Jackson, along with such other observations that seem appropriate.

Archibaccharis intermedia (Blake) Turner, comb. nov. _____

Archibaccharis hirtella (DC.) Heer. var. intermedia Blake, J. Wash. Acad. Sci. 24: 434. 1934. TYPE: MEXICO. Veracruz: shaded banks near Orizaba, 25 Jan 1895, Pringle 6108 (holotype US; isotype ENCB!)

Erect to scandent herbs 0.5 m high or clamboring shrubs to 3 m high. Stems terete, striate, densely to moderately sordid puberulent. Leaves ovate to lanceolate-ovate, 2.5-6.5 cm long, 1-2 cm wide, sparsely puberulent above and below along the major veins, otherwise glabrous, the margins remotely dentate to serrulate; petioles well-defined, mostly 1-3 mm long. Heads numerous (50-150) in loose, leafy, terminal corymbose panicles. Pistillate heads 4-5 mm high, 3-4 mm wide; bracts 3-4 seriate, imbricate, linear-lanceolate, glabrous, acute, the margins sparsely ciliate; ray florets filiform, 20-30; corollas 2.5-3.0 mm long, white, puberulous to glabrous, the ligule obsolete; achenes ca. 1.3 mm long, 2-3 nerved, sparsely hispid, the pappus 2-3 mm long. Staminate heads 3-4 mm high, 3-4 mm wide; bracts 2-3 seriate, imbricate, lanceolate-ovate, sparsely puberulent to glabrous, prominently ciliate and often red-tinged; disk florets 10-30; corollas 2-3 mm long, white to reddish-brown; tube 1.0-1.5 mm long, puberulent; limbs 2-3 mm long, glabrous or nearly so, the lobes 1.0-1.5 mm long.

Chromosome number unknown.

DISTRIBUTION AND HABITAT: Montane regions of pine and oak cloud forests from Hidalgo south along the Sierra Madre Orientale to central Veracruz (Mount Orizaba); 1500-2400 m. Flowering Oct.-Feb.

REPRESENTATIVE SPECIMENS: MEXICO. HIDALGO: 3 mi S La Culabra, Hwy. 84, 54 mi N Zimapan, 30 Dec 1970, Dunn et al. 17426 (ENCB); El Estribo carretera Metepec - Tenango de Doria, 2400 m, 3 Dec 1972, Gimate 807 (ENCB); 2 km S Tenango de Doria, 1700 m, 14 Jan 1973, Rzedowski 30241 (ENCB).

PUEBLA: 3 km N Zacapoaxtal, sobre la carretera a Cuetzalan, 1500 m, 4 Feb 1974, Rzedowski 31726 (pistillate plant), 31727 (staminate plant) (ENCB).

VERACRUZ: Mun. Acajete: Plan de Cedeno, 1780 m, 9 Dec 1971, Ventura 4663 (ENCB); Acajete, 1800 m, 6 Dec 1976, Ventura 13712 (ENCB). Mun. Acatlan: Acatlan, 1800 m, 10 Dec 1973 Ventura 9388 (ENCB); Acatlan, 1800 m, 20 Sep 1975, Ventura 11849 (ENCB). Mun. Altotonga: Tasahuapa, 1800 m, 8 Nov 1969, Ventura 17 (ENCB,LL). Mun. Atzalan: Tatzayanala, 1400 m, 10 Jan 1970, Ventura 348 (ENCB); Cerro del Aquila, 800 m, 19 Jan, 1981, Ventura 18113 (ENCB, XAL). Mun. Coscomatepec: El Durazno, 1415 m, 29 Jan 1972, Ventura 4860(ENCB, TEX). Mun. Naolinco: Naolinco, 1500 m, 1 Nov 1973, Ventura 7779 (ENCB). Mun. Yecuatla: Paz de Enriquez, 1550 m, 7 Nov 1970, Ventura 2785 (ENCB).

Jackson (1975) correctly notes that this taxon, which he maintained as a variety of Archibaccharis hirtella, is quite distinct from the latter. Label data indicate that the species may vary in habit from an erect herb (0.5 m, in flower) to a clamboring "vine" up to 3 m high. It is usually described, however, as a perennial herb to 1.5 m high, in which case it has only weakly fractiflex stems. It is readily distinguished from A. hirtella by its small, mostly ovate leaves which are abruptly petiolate, small heads in leafy open capitulescences, the ultimate peducles being mostly 5-12 mm long. In addition, as noted by Jackson, the taxon is completely eglandular, which provides a convenient "key character" for identification purposes.

Archibaccharis hirtella is a widespread species occurring from the state of Mexico along the Sierra Madre Occidentale to Chiapas and hence southward to El Salvador. With the exclusion of A. intermedia it is comprised of 3 varieties: var. hirtella which grades southward into the more pubescent var. taeniotricha Blake and the var. albescens Jackson, which is a poorly known localized taxon from central Oaxaca. The distributional relationships of these several taxa are shown in Figure 1.

LITERATURE CITED

Jackson, J. D. 1975. A revision of the genus Archibaccharis Heering (Compositae - Astereae) Phytologia 32: 81-192.

